

THE TWILITE ZONE

The Twilight Zone exists in the fax machines of the wire-services of the world. Step through the door of your imagination...

Curiosity Kills Again

Tokyo police announced in January that they believed graduate student Tetsuo Sugahara, 24, had died accidentally.

He was found dead near his home with his nose and mouth taped shut, so police naturally decided he had been a victim of his own curiosity about how the human body can function without oxygen.



ORGANIC LIGHTING

Accidents at night have always been a problem. George Buckley, a British pharmacist and Parish chairperson, wants to make the streets safe at night by ensuring pet food manufacturers inject their products with bacteria so that Nottingham shoes will stay clean.

The bacteria - *escherichia coli* - would react with bacteria living in dogs which would give off a glow when excreted and streets would shine with fluorescent warnings.

Mr Buckley says he receives scores of complaints from irate residents with soiled shoes.

One That Got Away

An itchy eye helped Major Richard Bingley recover a lost war souvenir. Major Bingley was shot in the thigh during the Korean War in 1952. Four bullets struck him but only three had exit holes.

"I never had any trouble until a couple of months ago when I got a very bad irritation behind my eye," said the 68-year old retired soldier in a London hospital last December.

"The bullet must have somehow worked its way around my bloodstream until it lodged behind my eye. Who knows where else it may have been?"

Martian Shrink

A respected psychiatrist investigated in the Chelmsford 'Deep Sleep' Royal Commission believed he was a Martian, the Commission was told.

The late Dr Harry Bailey, who killed himself in 1985, believed Martians were a superior race who were going to inherit the Earth, according to a sister of one of Dr Bailey's late patients. She said Dr Bailey had told her brother that there were two different types of people - Martians and others - and that "You and I are Martians. Your parents are definitely not Martians." Dr Bailey allegedly believed Martians knew the meaning of life and had knowledge while others did not.

Dr Bailey once told her that "You could walk around the brain with hobnailed boots." He said he'd rather a brain operation than a liver operation and kept a glass jar on his desk and told her it was the brain of a criminal he had treated.

True Tails

An English surgeon has waited five years to release news of a baby born with a perfectly functioning tail.

Surgeon Eftis Paraskevides - who removed the 5 cm-long tail under general anaesthetic the day the child was born after consulting the parents - said "It was a true tail that moved intermittently and was covered with fine, downy hair, just like an animal's.

"I have seen nothing like it and there is nothing in medical records to compare with it. I would say it was unique."

British Medical Journal

The Fish John West Rejects

The home town of Bill Hayden was visited by an eerie omen the month he was sworn in as Governor-General. The Brisbane suburb of Ipswich was deluged by a violent downpour of squirming sardines in February as residents ran for cover.

Debra Degen was walking from a neighbour's home when she was surrounded by scores of flopping fish.

"I thought my husband was playing a joke but when I looked around my front lawn they were everywhere, it was very frightening," she said the next day.

"I heard a noise which I thought was hail but after only about 10 seconds I realised the hail was in fact sardines."

Ipswich police verified the tale, saying several residents had telephoned to say they had seen the sardines fall on the road and the Degen's lawn.

"It is certainly not a fishy tale. It really did happen," said a police spokesperson.

A Brisbane weather official said frogs had previously been reported falling from the sky in Western Australia.

A Common Annoyance

How would you remove a cockroach from your car? Jonathan Warren and Leo Rotello of the University of New York Health Science Centre have the answer.

Through trial and error they advise against using the recommended solution - spraying lidocaine, an anaesthetic, into the ear.

"With hurried anticipation we sprayed the drug briskly into the ear canal and quickly jumped back, fully expecting the beast to come hurtling forth at first contact with the noxious substance."

But the roach refused to do an Alien and stayed put. So the doctors tried again, with no result.

"Get that sucker outa my ear," the female patient shouted and the thus inspired doctors fitted a suction device into her ear.

"Got him! There he was, plastered to the suction tip like a fly to flypaper."

New England Journal of Medicine

